

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The following is a "Marked Up" version showing the changes that the accompanying submission makes to the Specification and Claims of Serial No. 09/375,328:

In the Claims

Claims 1-30 and 41-52 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

The following claims have been added:

53. (New) A method comprising:
indicating in a configuration register that a vector buffer is in use, wherein said vector
buffer is one of a plurality of vector buffers comprising a vector buffer pool; and
transferring vector data between memory and a register file via said vector buffer,
wherein said configuration register, said register file and said vector buffer pool
are local to a processor, and said transferring is initiated by a first program.
54. (New) The method of claim 53, further comprising:
indicating in the configuration register that the vector buffer is not in use.
55. (New) The method of claim 53, further comprising:
generating a vector transfer unit exception if a second program attempts to transfer vector
data between memory and a register via any vector buffer of the vector buffer
pool, if said configuration register indicates that said vector buffer is in use.
56. (New) The method of claim 55, further comprising:
indicating in said configuration register that said vector buffer pool is locked if said
second program attempts said transfer.

57. (New) The method of claim 56, wherein said indicating in said configuration register that said vector buffer pool is locked comprises:
setting a vector buffer lock bit in said configuration register.
58. (New) The method of claim 57, further comprising:
clearing said vector buffer lock bit in said configuration register; and
performing said transfer by said second program.
59. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein said indicating in the configuration register that the vector buffer is not in use comprises:
issuing a free vector buffer instruction.
60. (New) The method of claim 58, wherein said indicating in the configuration register that the vector buffer is not in use further comprises:
clearing a vector buffer in-use bit in said configuration register.
61. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein said transferring comprises:
transferring said vector data from said memory to said vector buffer as a result of
executing a load vector instruction.
62. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein said transferring comprises:
transferring said vector data from said vector buffer to said register file as a result of
executing a move vector from buffer instruction.
63. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein said transferring comprises:
transferring said vector data from said register file to said vector buffer as a result of
executing a move vector to buffer instruction.
64. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein said transferring comprises:
transferring said vector data from said vector buffer to said memory as a result of
executing a store vector instruction.

65. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein said configuration register, said register file and said vector buffer pool are on the same substrate as the processor.
66. (New) A system comprising:
a memory;
a data processor coupled to said memory, said data processor comprising:
a data cache;
a register file;
a configuration register;
a vector transfer execution unit; and
a vector buffer pool including a plurality of vector buffers, said vector transfer execution unit configured to transfer vector data between said memory and said register file via said vector buffer pool.
67. (New) The system of claim 66, wherein said vector transfer execution unit is further configured to indicate, in said configuration register, whether or not a vector buffer of said vector buffer pool is in use by a first program.
68. (New) The system of claim 67, wherein said vector transfer execution unit is further configured to prevent a second program from transferring data between said memory and said register file via said vector buffer pool if said vector buffer pool is in use.
69. (New) The system of claim 68, wherein said vector transfer execution unit comprises a vector transfer instruction queue configured to store a plurality of vector transfer instructions to transfer vector data between said memory and said register file via said vector buffer pool.
70. (New) The system of claim 66, wherein said vector transfer execution unit is further configured to transfer said vector data from said memory to said vector buffer as a result of executing a load vector instruction.

71. (New) The system of claim 66, wherein said vector transfer execution unit is further configured to transfer said vector data from said vector buffer to said register file as a result of executing a move vector from buffer instruction.
72. (New) The system of claim 66, wherein said vector transfer execution unit is further configured to transfer said vector data from said register file to said vector buffer as a result of executing a move vector to buffer instruction.
73. (New) The system of claim 66, wherein said vector transfer execution unit is further configured to transfer said vector data from said vector buffer register to said memory as a result of executing a store vector instruction.
74. (New) The system of claim 66 wherein said configuration register comprises:
a length of said vector buffers;
a number of vector buffers in said vector buffer pool; and
an identification of an active vector buffer.
75. (New) The system of claim 66 wherein said configuration register comprises:
a code for an exception caused by a vector transfer unit instruction.
76. (New) The system of claim 66 wherein said configuration register comprises:
a vector buffer pool in use bit to indicate whether said vector buffer pool is available or in use; and
a vector buffer pool lock bit to indicate whether said vector buffer pool is allocated to a program.
77. (New) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon instructions which, when executed by a processor, configure the processor to:
indicate in a configuration register that a vector buffer is in use, wherein said vector buffer is one of a plurality of vector buffers comprising a vector buffer pool; and
transfer vector data between memory and a register file via said vector buffer, wherein

said configuration register, said register file and said vector buffer pool are local to a processor, and said transferring is initiated by a first program.

78. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 77 which further configures the processor to:

indicate in the configuration register that the vector buffer is not in use.

79. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 77 which further configures the processor to:

generate a vector transfer unit exception if a second program attempts to transfer vector data between memory and a register via any vector buffer of the vector buffer pool, if said configuration register indicates that said vector buffer is in use.

80. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 79 which further configures the processor to:

indicate in said configuration register that said vector buffer pool is locked if said second program attempts said transfer.

81. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 80 which further configures the processor to:

set a vector buffer lock bit in said configuration register.

82. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 81 which further configures the processor to:

clear said vector buffer lock bit in said configuration register; and
perform said transfer by said second program.

83. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 77 which further configures the processor to:

issuing a free vector buffer instruction.

84. (New) The method of claim 82, wherein said indicating in the configuration

register that the vector buffer is not in use further comprises:

clear a vector buffer in-use bit in said configuration register.

85. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 77 which further configures the processor to:

transfer said vector data from said memory to said vector buffer as a result of executing a load vector instruction.

86. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 77 which further configures the processor to:

transfer said vector data from said vector buffer to said register file as a result of executing a move vector from buffer instruction.

87. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 77 which further configures the processor to:

transfer said vector data from said register file to said vector buffer as a result of executing a move vector to buffer instruction.

88. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 77 which further configures the processor to:

transfer said vector data from said vector buffer to said memory as a result of executing a store vector instruction.